

Message Text

SECRET

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12

ORIGIN EA-10

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R 210003Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

S E C R E T STATE 146312

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MPOL, NZ, SN

SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND MANAGEMENT OF SINGAPORE NAVAL
FACILITIES

REF: STATE 135611

1. AS INDICATED PARA TWO REFTTEL, DEPTOFF CONTACTED
NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY COUNSELOR POWLES JUNE 13 WITH OFFER
TO ARRANGE INFORMAL WORKING-LEVEL MEETING TO DISCUSS US
PROPOSAL FOR NEW ZEALAND MANAGEMENT OF SENOKO FUEL DEPOT
AND RELATED BERTHS IF GNZ FELT NEED FOR FURTHER DETAILS.
POWLES UNDERTOOK TO INFORM WELLINGTON OF OUR OFFER.

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2. POWLES PHONED DEPARTMENT JUNE 18 TO CONVEY GNZ REPLY.

GNZ APPRECIATIVE OF OFFER BUT PREFERRED TO HOLD IT IN ABEYANCE FOR WHILE. POWLES SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS ENGAGED IN EXCHANGE WITH BRITISH ON "POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES" TO US PROPOSAL, WHICH COULD INVOLVE BRITISH WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE PLAYING "SOME KIND OF ROLE" IN MANAGING FACILITIES IN QUESTION. WHILE THIS EXCHANGE WAS IN PROGRESS, GNZ DID NOT BELIEVE FURTHER MEETING TO CLARIFY DETAILS OF US PROPOSAL WAS NEEDED. IN ANY EVENT, POWLES ADDED, NEW ZEALAND OFFICIALS IN SINGAPORE HAD DISCUSSED PROPOSAL

IN SOME DETAIL WITH US COUNTERPARTS AND GNZ FELT IT HAD ADEQUATE INFORMATION FOR CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL. IF FURTHER FACTUAL MATERIAL NEEDED, GNZ WOULD CONTACT US.

3. ONLY OTHER MENTION OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN BRITISH AND NEW ZEALAND REGARDING A CONTINUED BRITISH ROLE OCCURRED DURING LTG WEBB'S CALL ON DEPSECDEF CLEMENTS' ON JUNE 16. LTG WEBB, WHO WAS RETURNING HOME FROM MEETINGS IN ENGLAND, INDICATED THAT BRITISH NAVY WAS CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF RETAINING OR RENTING SOME FUEL TANKS CURRENTLY UNDER THEIR CONTROL AND THAT GNZ WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT BRITISH DECISION. DESPITE OUR OBVIOUS INTEREST IN TOPIC, BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BEST FOR PRESENT NOT TO TAKE INITIATIVE OF QUERYING EITHER PARTY. THEY WILL CERTAINLY LET US KNOW WHAT THEY HAVE WORKED OUT AS SOON AS THEY HAVE ANYTHING TO TELL US, AND WE WOULD NOT WANT TO JEOPARDIZE ANY ARRANGEMENT THAT THEY MAY MAKE ALONG THESE LINES BY INJECTING OURSELVES INTO LONDON-WELLINGTON EXCHANGE. KISSINGER

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